

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03  
INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02  
CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 PA-01 PRS-01 AGRE-00  
SS-15 NSC-05 /077 W  
-----071838Z 105651 /65

R 071617Z JAN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2846

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 0295

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: EAGR, UR  
SUBJECT: AGRIC, MINISTER MESYAT'S PRESS CONFERENCE

REF: MOSCOW 0150

PASS USDA/FAS/MEEKER/NOVOTNY/ AND ERS/SCHNOOVER

1. MESYATS' REMARKS ON OVERALL AGRICULTURAL SITUATION  
GOALS AND PLANS, WHICH WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO OBTAIN TO  
DATE, CONTAIN NOTHING NEW OR SIGNIFICANT. ESSENTIALLY,  
HE REPEATED THE NUMBERS AND RHETORIC OF 10TH FYP DIRECTIONS  
FOR AGRICULTURE AS PREVIOUSLY STATED BY THE 25TH CONGRESS,  
PLUS THE STRENGTHENED EMPHASIS OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE  
RESOLUTIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ANNOUNCED SUBSEQUENTLY. FOR  
EXAMPLE. 1980 PRODUCTIONS GOALS WERE REPEATED (MEAT--17.3;  
MILK--102; EGGS--67; POTATOES--105 (EGGS IN BILLION PIECES,  
OTHER IN MILLION TONS). THE 170 BILLION ROUBLE INVEST-  
MENT AMOUNT WAS ALSO REAFFIRMED.  
THUS, MOST SIGNIFICANT CONCLUSION TO BE TENTATIVE-  
LY DRAWN FROM THESE STATEMENTS IS THAT THE TENTH PLAN  
PRIORITIES AND ECONOMIC RESOURCES ALLOCATIONS FOR AGRICULTURE HAVE  
NOT BEEN CHANGED IN MAJOR RESPECTS SINCE THE 25TH  
PARTY CONGRESS.

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3. TRANSCRIPT OF CONFERENCE HAS BEEN OBTAINED. TRANS-  
LATION WILL BE FORWARDED IN EVENT THAT IT MIGHT BE  
USEFUL IN INTERPRETING OFFICIAL FIGURES TO BE RELEASED  
JANUARY 15, OR FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

4. FYI, WE ADVISED MIN. AG. OFFICIAL ABOUT PROBABILITY

OF AN ERROR IN 1976 MEAT OUTPUT GIVEN BY MESYATS, AND EXPECT CLARIFICATION WILL BE ISSUED. LIVE WEIGHT STATISTICS OF 21.0 MMT COULD ACTUALLY BE CORRECT, BECAUSE THIS CONVERTS TO CLOSE 13.3 MMT SLAUGHTER WEIGHT IF A CONVERSION FACTOR OF 63 PERCENT IS APPLIED. THIS WOULD MEAN, THOUGH, THAT PRODUCTION WAS AT BEST BARELY ABOVE THE REVISED 1976 GOAL. SIXTY-THREE PERCENT IS, OF COURSE, PROBABLY HIGH FOR THE WEST, BUT IT IS CONSIDERED TO BE ABOUT AVERAGE IN THE SOVIET UNION, WE CONTINUE TO CONSIDER THAT THE 15.7 - 16.0 MMT STATISTICS ARE LIVE-WEIGHT AND REPRESENT PROCUREMENT AND NOT PRODUCTION.

INCIDENTALLY, IF WE ARE CORRECT, THIS IMPLIES THAT (A) PRIVATE SECTOR PRODUCTION WAS OFF LESS THAN OUTPUT IN THE SOCIALIZED SECTOR WHICH, WE THOUGHT, WAS NOT THE CASE -- ADMITTEDLY ON INSUFFICIENT INFORMATION; (B) THAT THE PERCENT OF PROCUREMENTS FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR WAS UP SHARPLY AS WAS THE CASE WITH MILK EARLY IN THE YEAR. IF THIS IS THE CASE, THIS ILLUSTRATES THAT SUBSTANTIALLY LARGER QUANTITIES OF MEAT WERE REMOVED FROM RURAL SUPPLY CHANNELS THAN USUAL.

5. MESYATS ALSO COMMENTED ON RICE PRODUCTION OUTLOOK. HE WAS MOST OPTIMISTIC, REPORTEDLY SAYING THAT OUTPUT IN THE NEAR FUTURE WOULD REACH 3.0 MMT. IN OUR VIEW, THIS IS ACHIEVABLE BY 1980 GIVEN THEIR SUCCESS IN INCREASING PRODUCTION OF THIS CROP FROM 583,000 TONS IN 1965 TO AN ESTIMATED 2.2 MILLION TONS THIS YEAR.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
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**Review Markings:**  
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